

INSIDE

NEWS



Obama's win by a large margin in South Carolina could indicate a change in the Democratic party.

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ARTS



Celebrity blogger Perez Hilton brought his silly antics to Cal Poly for a disappointing yet fun show.

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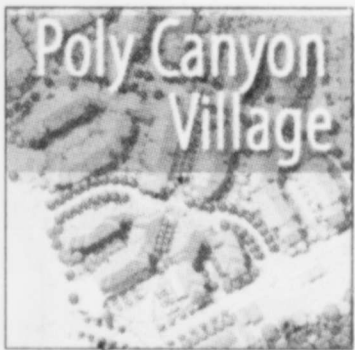
SPORTS



Cal Poly junior forward Megan Harrison leads the Mustangs in scoring and rebounding.

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ONLINE



Go online to view an interactive guide, timeline, gallery and more for Poly Canyon Village.

mustangdaily.net

TODAY'S WEATHER

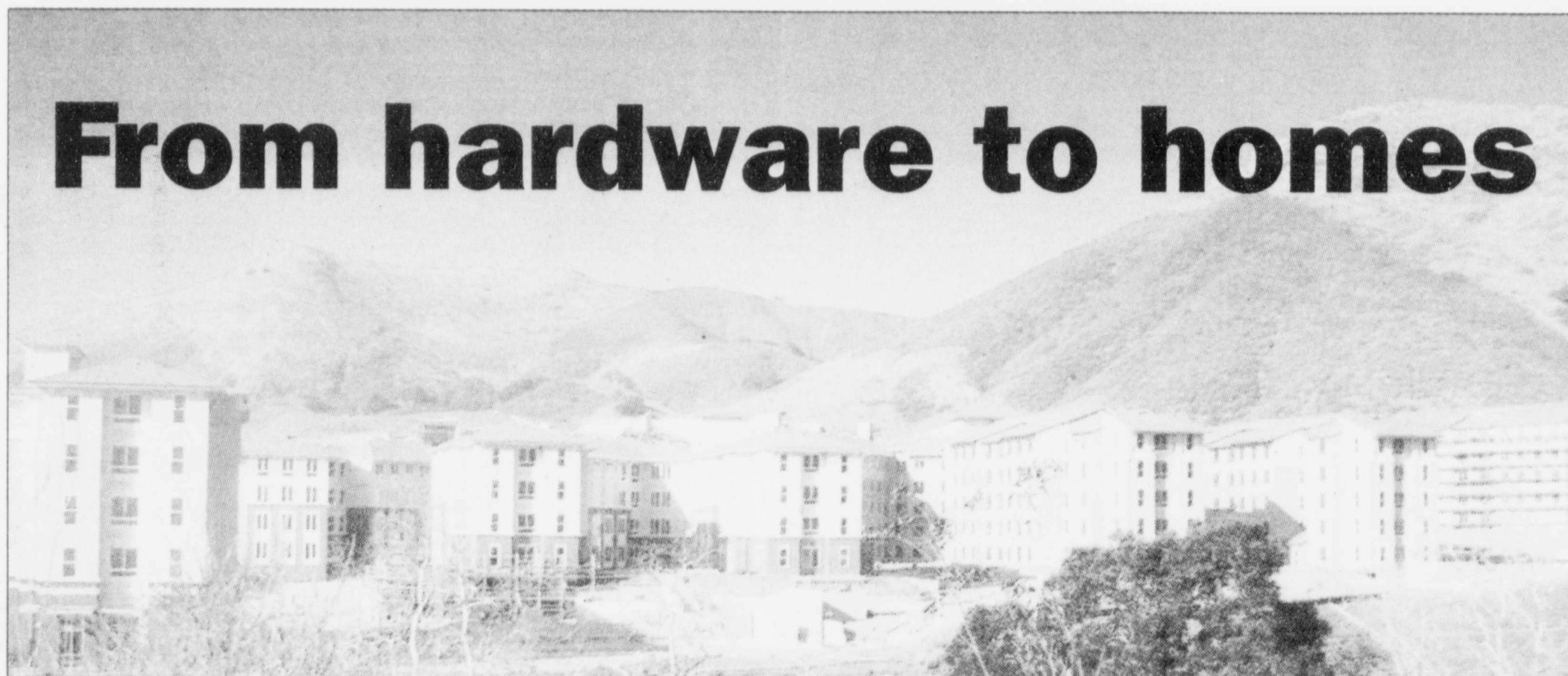


Chance of Rain
High 53°/Low 34°

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From hardware to homes



CARY CONRADY MUSTANG DAILY

Five of the nine buildings will be available to sophomore students by fall 2009. Students can apply now through Housing and Residential Life.

Cary Conrady
MUSTANG DAILY

Amid the buzz about the addition of Starbucks to the University Union, the possible Recreation Center expansion and various construction projects around campus, Poly Canyon Village quietly awaits in the corner, slowly taking the form of what will be a significant on-campus housing complex in a matter of months.

The complex, which can house 2,700 students in its nine high-rise buildings, is now accepting applications for fall 2008.

The project started in March 2005 and will cost the university an estimated \$300 million by the time it is finished.

Five of the nine buildings, which can hold approximately 1,500 residents, will be available for

move-in by fall, as well as part of the new parking structure.

"We're hoping to have all nine buildings open by summer of 2009," said Preston Allen, the director of Housing and Residential Life.

Poly Canyon Village is set up much like the Cerro Vista Apartments, with 80 percent of the apartments containing four private bedrooms with two bathrooms. All apartments come furnished with a weekly custodial service and will cost about \$690 per month.

"It's an absolutely beautiful complex with views of the sunset and the hills. The hardest part is trying to convince you to actually go to class," Allen said.

Poly Canyon Village will feature hiking trails, a pool, study facilities, a post office, a market, a recreation center and conference rooms. Cal Poly

is also introducing Peet's Coffee, Einstein Bros. Bagels and Jamba Juice in the complex as well as a central plaza for entertainment.

"We'll work with (Associated Students Inc.) to bring events to Poly Canyon Village," Allen said. "We really want students to have an enhanced living experience. We want to fully integrate students into campus life and get them involved. Hopefully we can create a positive environment that is a win-win for the students, campus and the community."

Students living off campus are hoping to benefit from the grand opening of Poly Canyon Village as well. The addition of 618 on-campus apartments promises to reduce the competition for housing in San Luis Obispo, as well as allevi-

see Housing, page 2



RYAN POLEI MUSTANG DAILY

Students armed themselves with umbrellas to shield themselves against last week's heavy rainfall. A series of storms hammered San Luis Obispo with gusty winds and numerous power outages in the area.

Wet weather drenches state

Jacob Adelman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Fast-moving thunderstorms brought new waves of rain on Sunday to California, following days of drenching weather and heavy mountain snowfall and raising fears of mudslides and flooding.

The worst of the storm was over, and Monday promised to bring a spell of clear weather, forecasters said.

"Things will start to die down as the night goes on," said Na-

tional Weather Service forecaster Ryan Kittell.

Up to 3 inches of rain had fallen by early afternoon in valley and coastal areas since nightfall Saturday, with about 4 inches in the mountains, forecasters said. Wind gusts of 30 to 50 mph were reported in some areas.

Officials said the rain brought a threat of serious slides on hillsides stripped of vegetation by last year's wildfires. Mud and minor rock slides prompted authorities to shut a highway through a burned area near San Diego. Vol-

untary evacuations were in effect in heavily burned Modjeska Canyon in Orange County.

The Los Angeles County and Orange County fire departments were on standby for possible flash floods and slides. Flash flood watches remained in effect through Sunday night for Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernardino counties.

To avoid overflow, the flood gates at the Big Tujunga Dam in the San Gabriel Mountains were

see Storms, page 2

Absentee voting convenient for college students

Shannon Boren
MUSTANG DAILY

With all the time spent between classes, work and extracurricular activities, staying active in politics can fall to the wayside. Simply put, college students are busy, and this is where vote-by-mail ballots come in.

Absentee voting works to simplify what can sometimes be a difficult and daunting process for voters. The number of people voting by mail has been steadily growing since the late 1970s, with 46 percent of voters in San Luis Obispo County registered absentee in 2006.

"It's basically just more convenient," Julie Rodewald, the San Luis Obispo County clerk-recorder. "When faced with really long ballots, it's nice to fill them out at your leisure in your home. With weather like we've been having, a lot of people don't want to drive out in the rain to vote."

But for the college community, there is an added bonus.

"Students who want to vote but don't want to drive back to their home counties find it convenient because they can fill out their ballot wherever they are," she said. "In fact, it's really the only other way to do it."

To use the vote-by-mail system, one must be a registered voter and fill out a

see Voting, page 2



Freelance religion journalist discusses role of media

What: Freelance religion journalist Shona Crabtree will speak about the role journalists play in shaping religious dialog in America. The speech is sponsored by the religious studies program and the Cal Poly Theisms club.

When: Tuesday at 11:10 a.m.

Where: Bioresource and agricultural engineering building 8, room 123

Questions? Call Stephen Lloyd-Moffett at 756-2475.

Mathematician discusses fair-division

What: Cal Poly research scholar in residence Ted Hill will discuss how to fairly divide disputed territories, estates, votes and more in his lecture "Getting a Fair Share."

When: Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Where: Kennedy Library, room 510-B

Questions? Call the Cal Poly Research and Graduate Programs office at 756-1508.

Greg Giraldo's comedy tour comes to Poly

What: Comedy Central Live On Campus "The Indecision 2008 Tour with Greg Giraldo" is coming to Cal Poly for a night of political humor.

When: Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Where: Chumash Auditorium

Questions? Call ASI Events at 756-1112.

LGBT and women's self-defense workshop

What: The Pride Center and SPECTRUM are presenting a self-defense workshop with the SARP Center that is intended for a LGBT and female ally student audience.

When: Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m.

Where: Bishop's Lounge, University Union room 208

Questions? Call Erin Echols at 756-7153.

LGBT Ally Training

What: The Pride Center is hosting an Ally Training workshop for students, faculty and staff who are interested in becoming allies of the LGBT community.

When: Thursday from noon to 2 p.m.

Where: University Union room 218

Questions? Call Erin Echols at 756-7153 or e-mail pride@calpoly.edu.

Focus the Nation

What: Cal Poly's Empower Poly Coalition will host a workshop titled "Strengthening the Political Will for Investment in Climate Change Solutions" as a finale to the day's many events as part of the Focus the Nation.

When: Thursday at 7 p.m.

Where: Chumash Auditorium

Questions? Call Empower Poly president Chad Worth at (925) 595-5539.

Poker tournament

What: ASI Events is hosting the third annual no-limit Texas Hold 'em poker tournament. The \$5 admission fee includes food, music and a spot in the tournament. Reservation at connect.asi.calpoly.edu is necessary to get in and spots are limited.

When: Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Grey gym in the Rec Center

Questions? Call ASI Events at 756-1112.

Storms

continued from page 1

opened Sunday, releasing 500 cubic feet of water a second.

Department of Public Works spokesman Gary Boze said the controlled flooding was routine during heavy storms.

In downtown Los Angeles, Sunday's basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and Cleveland Cavaliers was delayed 12 minutes after a small leak in the Staples Center roof allowed a steady flow of water to fall on the court.

The Santa Anita race track in

Arcadia, meanwhile, canceled horse races for the sixth day this month because of wet conditions on the synthetic track.

The storm system also soaked parts of Northern California and the weather service posted winter storm warnings for parts of the Sierra Nevada.

A highway was closed in the mountains south of San Francisco, and Pacific Gas and Electric said about 2,700 homes and businesses were still blacked out because of earlier storms.

A series of fierce storms has caused deadly avalanches, flooded streets and set off mud and rock

slides in recent days. Some areas have received more moisture in a week than during the entire rainy season last year.

Three skiers were killed Friday by a trio of avalanches that swept through canyons outside the trails of Mountain High ski resort at Wrightwood, northeast of Los Angeles in the San Gabriel Mountains. A fourth man escaped the avalanches.

Avalanches are unusual in the San Gabriel Mountains, but the peaks had been hit by 3 feet or more of new snow this past week, drawing thousands of skiers and snowboarders.

Voting

continued from page 1

vote-by-mail application to be received by the county in which they are registered by no more than seven days before an election. For the upcoming presidential primaries that day has passed, but ballots can still be issued in person up to the time of the election.

While students can re-register in San Luis Obispo County, many opt to vote absentee from their home counties.

"I registered to vote by mail when I moved to college because it's easy," biological sciences sophomore Benjamin Kwittken said. "A lot of Americans have school or work and they don't have time to go vote."

Other voters, like forestry and natural resources junior Corinne Ross, are simply looking to avoid a long trip home.

"I don't want to have to drive all that way on election day, so I'll probably go get a ballot in person before that if I can remember," she said. "I guess you could call me a borderline absentee voter."

With the trend steadily increasing from less than

10,000 voters in 1980 to approximately 60,000 currently utilizing the system in San Luis Obispo, it is likely that the number of people using this approach will rise beyond 50 percent in the coming years.

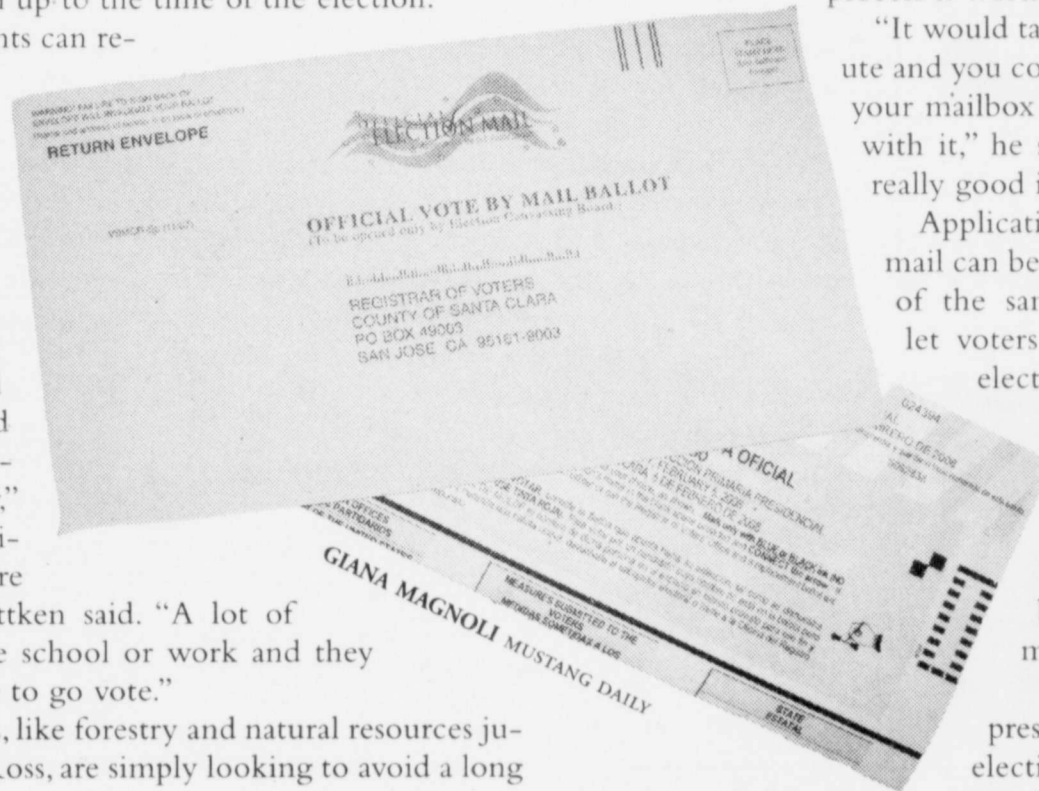
Even students not registered to vote find the mail-in process a convenient choice and maybe even a reason to become involved. Electrical engineering sophomore Jeffrey Ing hasn't registered yet but thinks the process is worthwhile.

"It would take less than a minute and you could just throw it in your mailbox when you're done with it," he said. "I think it's a really good idea for students."

Applications to vote by mail can be found on the back of the sample ballot booklet voters received prior to elections, on a county's elections Web site, or through a written request sent to the address where the ballot should be mailed.

For this year's presidential primary election, completed absentee ballots must be received by the election department or any polling place by 8 p.m. Feb. 5.

Absentee ballots that are dropped off by hand must be turned in to polling places within the county to which they are registered.



Housing

continued from page 1

ate traffic on campus.

Poly Canyon Village residency is open to all Cal Poly students, but sophomores are given priority in the registration process as part of Cal Poly's Sophomore Success Program, a resource to sophomores living on

campus meant to assist their transition to junior year.

Freshmen currently living on campus have the first opportunity to apply online between Feb. 5 and Feb. 18. Freshmen living off campus can also apply after attending one of the mandatory information sessions, which are being held Jan. 23 to Jan. 28.

Six hundred students have already signed up for the meetings, Allen said.

Beginning March 14, all continuing students will have the opportunity to place their names on the Poly Canyon Village Apartment Interest List.

"Hopefully having more students on campus will lead to more recreation and campus life and make it the kind of college community that students can be excited to be in," Allen said.

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State Briefs

RICHMOND (AP) — A man is in critical condition after gunfire erupted from a sedan that pulled up alongside his car on a Richmond freeway.

Police said the victim was shot three or four times Sunday afternoon while driving east on Interstate 580.

Richmond police Lt. Michael Booker said a woman and a toddler also in the victim's car suffered no injuries.

The vehicle came to a stop in the middle of the freeway after the shooting. The victim was airlifted to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

BARSTOW (AP) — The Air Force plans to destroy an abandoned military bunker in the Mojave Desert, where a teen couple were killed execution-style earlier this month.

Linda Geissinger, a spokeswoman for the Air Force's Real Property Agency, said it's awaiting clearance from the San Bernardino County district attorney's office to demolish the bunker by the fall.

The bunker sits on the former Hawes Auxiliary Army Airfield. It has been abandoned since the mid-1980s and has become a graffiti-scarred hangout for youths.

Eighteen-year-old Christopher Cody Thompson and his 16-year-old girlfriend Bodhisatva Sherzer-Potter were shot at the bunker on Jan. 5.

ANTIOCH (AP) — An Antioch man burned in a fire that started when a suspected drunken driver crashed into his house has been released from the hospital.

Police said they arrested Terry Franklin on suspicion of driving under the influence after he tried to flee the scene just before 5 p.m. Saturday.

The crash snapped a gas meter and started a fire in the car that spread to the house.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "No Country for Old Men" emerged as the Oscar favorite Sunday by taking top honors for overall cast along with Javier Bardem's supporting-actor prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, the lone gathering of A-list stars in an awards season hobbled by the writers' strike.

Daniel Day-Lewis of "There Will Be Blood" and Julie Christie of "Away From Her" won the lead-acting honors, also giving them a boost to win the same trophies at the Oscars on Feb. 24.

MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

• In the Jan. 25 edition of "Word On the Street," Julie Anderson and Katherine Januszewicz had their photos switched. The names were placed with the opposite photos.

WORD ON THE STREET

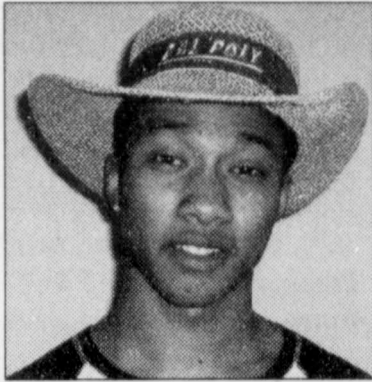
"What's the one thing in SLO you've always wanted to do but haven't yet?"

Compiled and photographed by Brittney Clyde



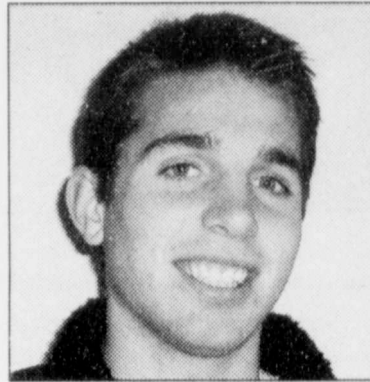
"Sea kayaking. I was just thinking about that this morning."

— Nicole Balvanz, biology junior



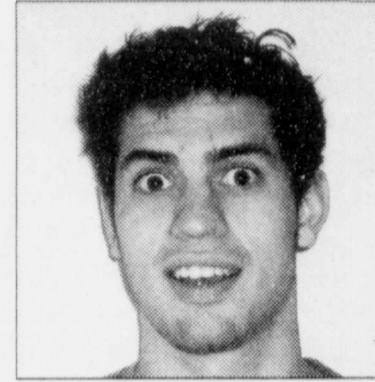
"I haven't gone line dancing yet."

— James Perryman, general engineering freshman



"I'd like to go surfing."

— Stephen Marshall, kinesiology freshman



"I'd like to have a Mardi Gras block party this year."

— Dave Moller, materials engineering junior

Despite what you may have heard The Party Is Still Over



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city of san luis obispo

Obama says landslide win in South Carolina marks a turn in party history

Charles Babington
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrat Barack Obama said Sunday that his landslide win in South Carolina's presidential primary marks a turn in political history, showing that a black candidate can appeal to voters of all colors and in all regions.

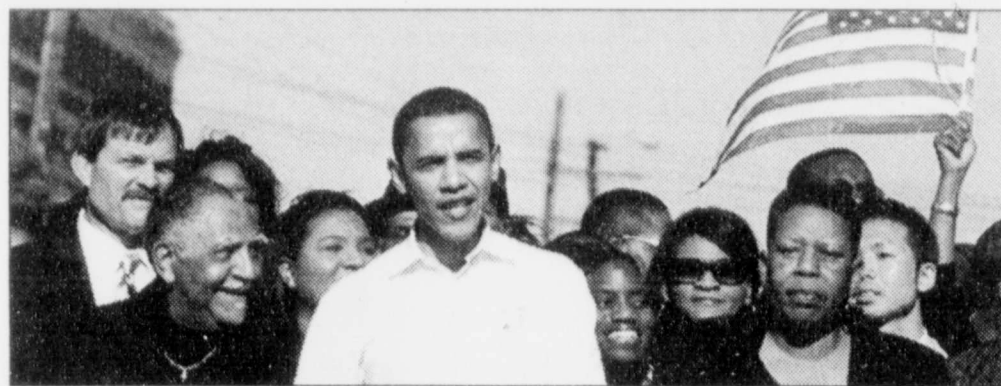
The Illinois senator told a raucous South Carolina crowd of more than 9,000 that his big victory Saturday disproved the old notion "that if you get black votes, you can't get white votes," and vice versa.

"We're going to write a new chapter in the South, we're going to write a new chapter in American history," he said during his 64-minute speech to a capacity crowd at the University of Alabama at Birmingham basketball arena. The crowd was roughly two-thirds black and one-third white.

Earlier Sunday he made a similar argument, responding to comments by former President Clinton that some interpreted as an effort to diminish Obama's win Saturday over Hillary Rodham Clinton. Bill Clinton noted that Jesse Jackson won the South Carolina primary in 1984 and 1988. Jackson never became the party's presidential nominee.

Obama, speaking during a television interview, said "there's no doubt" that Jackson set a precedent for blacks seeking the presidency. But he noted that was two decades ago.

"I think that what we saw in this election was a shift in South Caro-



Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama crosses the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama with civil rights pioneer Dr. Joseph Lowery.

lina," he said, with implications "all across the country. I think people want change. I think they want to get beyond some of the racial politics that, you know, has been so dominant in the past."

Obama resisted being drawn into a spat with the Clintons, even though he suggests they are part of a political past the country is ready to leave behind.

"I think that Bill Clinton did important work back in the 1990s," he said. "The question is, now we're in 2008, and how do we move it forward to the next phase?"

"I think that in the '90s, we got caught up in a slash-and-burn politics that the American people are weary of," Obama said.

"Now, that is not the Clintons' fault," he said on ABC's "This Week." "It is all of our faults, in the sense that we've gotten into these bad habits and we can't seem to have disagreements

without being disagreeable."

Later, Obama said, "I think the country wants to look forward, and that has always been the central thesis of our campaign."

He said Hillary Clinton will have an advantage in the sprawling race on Feb. 5, when Democrats vote in 22 states, because of her nearly universal name recognition. "It presents more of a challenge for us," he said, because he needs time for voters to get to know him.

Obama declined to directly condemn Clinton for urging that the Democratic Party officially recognize delegates awarded to the winner of Tuesday's largely ignored Democratic primary in Florida. Clinton said she will travel to Florida on Tuesday.

"All the candidates made a pledge that we would campaign in the early states and we would not campaign in Florida and Michigan," Obama said. "I will abide by the promises I made."

Briefs

National

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The son of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is peddling a board game titled "Don't Drop the Soap," a prison-themed game he created as part of a class project at the Rhode Island School of Design.

John Sebelius, 23, has the backing of his mother and father, U.S. Magistrate Judge Gary Sebelius. The governor's spokeswoman, Nicole Corcoran, said both parents "are very proud of their son John's creativity and talent."

John Sebelius is selling the game on his Internet site for \$34.99, plus packaging, shipping and handling. "Fight your way through six different exciting locations in hopes of being granted parole," the site says.

...

NEW YORK (AP) — A man who calls himself a tantric master broke his own world record by standing engulfed in ice for 72 minutes.

Wim Hof, 48, stood on a Manhattan street in a clear container filled with ice for an hour and 12 minutes Saturday.

Hof said he survives by controlling his body temperature through tantric meditation. Tantra is an Eastern tradition of ritual and meditation said to bring followers closer to their chosen deities.

...

CHESTERTON, Ind. (AP) — Two fourth-grade boys mimicking a scene from the movie "A Christmas Story" wound up with their tongues stuck to a frozen flagpole.

Gavin Dempsey and James Alexander were serving on flag duty at Jackson Elementary School Friday morning, with the job of raising and lowering the school's flags. They decided to see if their tongues really would stick to the cold metal.

"I decided to try it because I thought all of the TV shows were lies, but turns out I was wrong," Gavin said.

International

RAFAH, Egypt (AP) — A smattering of Hamas-affiliated security forces, many of them bearded and dressed in blue camouflage uniforms, fanned out on both sides of the breached Gaza-Egypt border Sunday to jointly police the crossing with Egyptian guards.

Though only about a dozen Hamas forces took up positions, it was their first significant action on the Egyptian side of the border in the five days since Palestinian militants blasted through the partition. Since then, tens of thousands of Gazans have flooded into Egypt to buy food, fuel and other goods made scarce by an Israeli closure of the territory.

...

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Former Indonesian President Suharto, a Cold War ally of the United States whose brutal military regime killed hundreds of thousands of left-wing political opponents, died Sunday. He was 86.

Although he oversaw some of the worst bloodshed of the 20th century, Suharto is credited with developing the economy and will be buried with the highest state honors Monday at the family mausoleum.

...

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Gunmen kidnapped a burqa-clad American aid worker and her driver in southern Afghanistan's largest city early Saturday, the latest in a series of kidnappings of foreigners in the troubled country.

Cyd Mizell, who worked in Kandahar for the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation, was snatched from a residential neighborhood as she was on her way to work. Jeff Palmer, the aid group's international director, said the group had not been contacted by the kidnappers and that he did not know their identity or demands.

Asadullah Khalid, the provincial governor, blamed the kidnappings on the "enemy of Islam and the enemy of Afghanistan."

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What does 'epic' even mean anymore, Hollywood?

To epic flicks, people herd like cattle, so bring out the beasts, it's time to battle.

Hollywood is out of control right now. Ever since the era of computer-driven special effects began, we've been seeing epic movie after epic movie. But you gotta wonder, how will this escalation of epic-ness end?

We saw epic war movies like "Troy" come out and dazzle us by showing thousands of ships carrying men with stupidly long hair to battle. Then "Lord of the Rings" and "300" changed the game to the point where no movie is truly epic unless 14,000 gorillas, 2,000 giraffes and 9,000 rhinos fight side-by-side with humans. Basically, the escalation of epic-ness has reached the point of inter-species combat, and Hollywood is going ape-shit with it.

We've got "Chronicles of Narnia," "The Golden Compass" and now "10,000 B.C.," the tale of a caveman who fights against elephants, dinosaurs and armies of thousands in civilizations that probably never existed. Hollywood, please, you want me to believe it's 10,000 B.C. and this dude is speaking fluent English and fighting dinosaurs?

"Epic" used to mean Will Smith saving the world from aliens (in "Independence Day" ... who thought I was talking about "Men In Black"?). It also used to mean a lamp, a vacuum, a radio, an electric blanket and a toaster embarking on a journey to reunite with their owner. Have we forgotten about the epic qualities of "The Brave Little Toaster"?

Hollywood needs to be stopped for our safety. Escalating the epic-ness we're currently experiencing might be harmful to the human heart. Can a person survive witnessing humans and animals joining forces to fight off extraterrestrial invaders who have brought animals from their planet to fight earth's greatest warriors in an all-out bloodbath until one man, alien, animal or alicenimal is left? Oh, did I mention it's also Armageddon and a mad scientist has cloned dinosaurs and set them free?

A hero will rise from our ranks and, of course, at some point in the film, call out to the rival leader, saying something like "Before this day is over, you will be dead" or "I will see you on the battlefield," only this time he says it to a 40-foot-tall tiger-lizard that has 18,000 tentacles made out of pure energy. And lava.

And then halfway through the movie, when the love story is getting played out, the zombie invasion hits. But these aren't your ordinary zombies. Well, they were until the vampires and werewolves came and bit them all. Now they're zombie-wolves.

At this point in the film, at least two audience members' hearts have exploded, but that's not enough for Hollywood. Just when you think the movie is over and all the aliens, alicenimals and zombie-wolves are dead, a time warp opens up and robots from the year 7010 appear, ready to lay waste to our survivors. Can our hero deliver an epic speech to rally what's left of the manimal team to defeat this new futuristic menace? Will audience members be alive to see the rest of the trilogy?

Start exercising and eating healthy now so that you can pass the necessary physical examination to see the most epic movie ever — the TRENDASaurus spontaneously combusted just reading the script. And don't believe that a movie is epic just because it says it is. "Epic" should mean "superior in quality and scale," not just "really long with huge battles involving man and beast and cheesy dialogue."

Brian McMullen is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist.

Two comedians, two different sets

Mica Vincent
MUSTANG DAILY

Tom Papa and Marc Maron may have stood on the same stage Saturday night, but that's where the similarities end.

The two very different comedians performed for more than 500 audience members at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center, garnering a mixed response.

Papa, the mellow of the two, opened the show by joking about his not-so-luxurious stay at the Peach Tree Inn, complaining that they used space heaters to warm the rooms. He then spent the majority of his allotted 45 minutes talking about his home life, specifically his wife, her pregnancy and their two girls.

"Find someone you can sleep next to without throwing up — and marry them," Papa advised the audience, explaining that the most they can hope for is to find someone they tolerate who tolerates them back.

He also spent time poking fun at himself — specifically his weight, his baldness (including the fact that his head sweats when he eats spicy food), and the size of his head (which he playfully claimed was the same size in third grade as it is now).

Topics like dieting, working out and religion took up the rest of Papa's routine.

"What if God didn't intend for us to eat the animals?" he asked the crowd rhetorically. "He must have been pretty freaked out when we started."

Papa had the audience hooked from his first joke to his last and earned a long round of applause before exiting the stage.

"I liked the first guy," said Tom Murphy, one of the audience members. "Didn't like the second."

Marc Maron, the edgier comic of the two, had a much harder time connecting with the crowd.

"I'm a little different tone than Tom," said Maron, seeming all too familiar with the audience's reluctance to embrace him. "You're going to have to adjust."

Covering topics ranging from Hurricane Katrina to religion and traffic to racism, Maron liberally used the F-word to emphasize his alternative style, something he calls "smart comedy."

"There is no bottom to the great American stupid pit," he joked, taking stabs at obesity rates and the president.

"At some level, George Bush is the right president to oversee the end of the world."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Comedians Marc Maron (left) and Tom Papa (right) performed at the Cohan Center Saturday night to mixed audience reviews.

Maron never managed to capture the entire audience's approval. However, those who did laugh at his jokes usually clapped and hollered as well, despite the fact that the comedian went close to half an hour over his allotted 45 minutes.

"It was definitely two very different styles of humor," said Scott Coffman, a warehouseman for Cal Poly. "You could tell half liked the first guy, half liked the other."

Both comics are late-night talk show regulars and have had specials on Comedy Central. Papa opened for Jerry Seinfeld's com-

edy tour and had his own NBC sitcom entitled "Come to Papa" in 2004, which only ran for four episodes.

Maron, who had a small role in "Almost Famous" and was featured in an HBO Comedy Showcase, joked that he could fill half a theater anywhere in the country.

"If I ever do another HBO special, it's going to be 'Marc Maron: Almost Sold-Out.'"

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HEY PEREZ, WHERE'S MY CELEBRITY JUICE?



Jessica Ford
MUSTANG DAILY

When celebrity blogger Perez Hilton visited Cal Poly Thursday, I expected a night filled with juicy gossip and nonstop laughs. Instead, I was left with Perez's life story and endless promotional plugs for his upcoming projects.

Now don't get me wrong, the *entire* event wasn't a bust. Things picked up when Perez played an exclusive clip of his unreleased song "My Penis" and proceeded to dance around the Chumash stage. (Yes, he's also an aspiring musician and his song really is called "My Penis.") His pop/dance/techno song was quite catchy and how could you not like a song with lyrics like, "My penis is scandalous"? Perez's other unreleased song, "Hot Mess," should be just as amusing. (I think it's safe to say "Hot Mess" is a probably a tribute to the ever-unraveling Britney Spears.)

I believe Britney pays Perez's bills, and I'm pretty sure he would have to agree. Perez said he "lives for the Spears family" and believes Britney is "in a category all her own." When asked if he preferred Britney or Lindsay Lohan by an audience member, Perez replied,

"I like Britney Spears more. She's good for business." (Good for business? She *is* your business!)

The only celebrity gossip Perez really discussed during the night was: Avril Lavigne's hatred for him, John Mayer's apparent porn fetish, John Travolta and Dolly Parton's sexual preference, an encounter with Tara Reid when she was supposedly "drunk and on blow," and Zac Efron's makeup collection.

I do have to admit that this blogger/actor/musician/comedian/motivational speaker/record label owner/pop culture enthusiast/Madonna worshipper has defied the odds by turning his blogging into a lucrative career. Perezhilton.com apparently receives millions of hits a day. The idea for the Web site began as just a bulletin on the social networking site Friendster.

The former struggling actor, who appeared on one episode of "The Sopranos" (and only had two lines), is now supporting himself by bagging celebrities and scooping the tabloids. Although throughout the event Perez claimed he did *everything* himself, he let it slip that his sister helps him and that he recently hired another girl. Perez said he receives a lot of e-mails from his

friends with insider information, helping him keep his Web site up to the minute with "celebrity juice."

Allegedly, Mario Armando Lavandeira, Jr. (a.k.a. Perez Hilton) is such a big deal in the Los Angeles scene that he has to go by a "character" name because of death threats from Clay Aiken fans. (If he really receives threats from Clay Aiken fans, I don't think he has to worry.) He said "Perez" is not what he is actually like, but that having this alter ego allows him to be more outrageous. Perez revealed he exaggerates things to get a rise out of people, which is exactly what has made him famous.

The highlight of the night (second to the “My Penis” song, of course) was the video Perez made from onstage showing all of his Cal Poly fans screaming and doing the wave. He actually posted the video on his Web site shortly after his Cal Poly visit. If you desire to further the fame of the self-proclaimed “media whore,” check out the minute-long video (<http://perzhilton.com/2008-01-25-six-degrees-of-zacquisha>), pay to see his upcoming movie (coming out later this year), or buy his songs when they are finally released on iTunes.



KALI BILLS MUSTANG DAILY

Above, students line up to see notorious blogger Perez Hilton take stabs at celebs in Chumash Auditorium Thursday night. Instead, Hilton (top left) kept the topic on himself.

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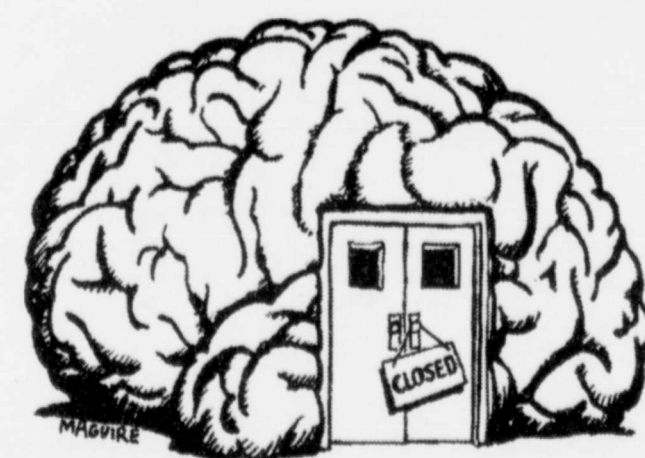
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SPANDEX AND STEROIDS

Miguelina Nunez
TUFTS DAILY (TUFTS U.)

It may be unclear to viewers why NBC is trying to resurrect a show about spandex-wearing goliaths, as some ideas are better left forgotten.

Nevertheless, the network is attempting to recreate a glorious past that we were sure was all but lost — an era when men were men, women were women, and silver spandex was the last word in haute couture — with a new version of “American Gladiators” that began this month.

Most of the action in “American Gladiators” boils down to a fight between the average Joe and a group of muscle-bound freaks. Director J. Rupert Thompson and Executive Producer David Hurwitz have set up the show around the idea of a David and Goliath battle set in a number of futuristic-looking obstacle courses. The average-looking contestants must complete a series of courses in which the obstacles are the gladiators themselves.

The four courses — the Joust, the Wall, Hang Tough and the Eliminator — are designed to test the strength and patience of the contestant while Hellga, Siren and Titan, a few of the show’s aptly-named gladiators, literally weigh the competitors down and prevent them from moving on to the next level. These gladiators may at first seem only to be brainless, steroid-inhaling jocks, but their relentless drive to prevent ordinary people from succeeding and their triumphant victory shouts set these super-humans apart as true warriors. One of the more impressive combatants is Hellga, a 205-pound mistress of death who, according to the NBC Web page, celebrates her Viking heritage by hitting opponents with “the force of Thor’s hammer,” sending them “straight to Valhalla.” Yet anyone who chooses to oppose such a valiant fighter is clearly undeserving of the warrior’s paradise and should not be included in Ragnarök, the final battle between the Gods and the Giants.

The “American Gladiators” of the 21st century employs the same obstacle courses and retains the same premise as the original show: the celebration of the true American Hero, the ‘average Joe’ (or Jane, as the case may be). However, because of available modern technology, the show has more special effects, more spandex and more fist-pumping, leather-coated, fake smoke-spewing action than ever before. Everything seems bigger and better, including the gladiators themselves.

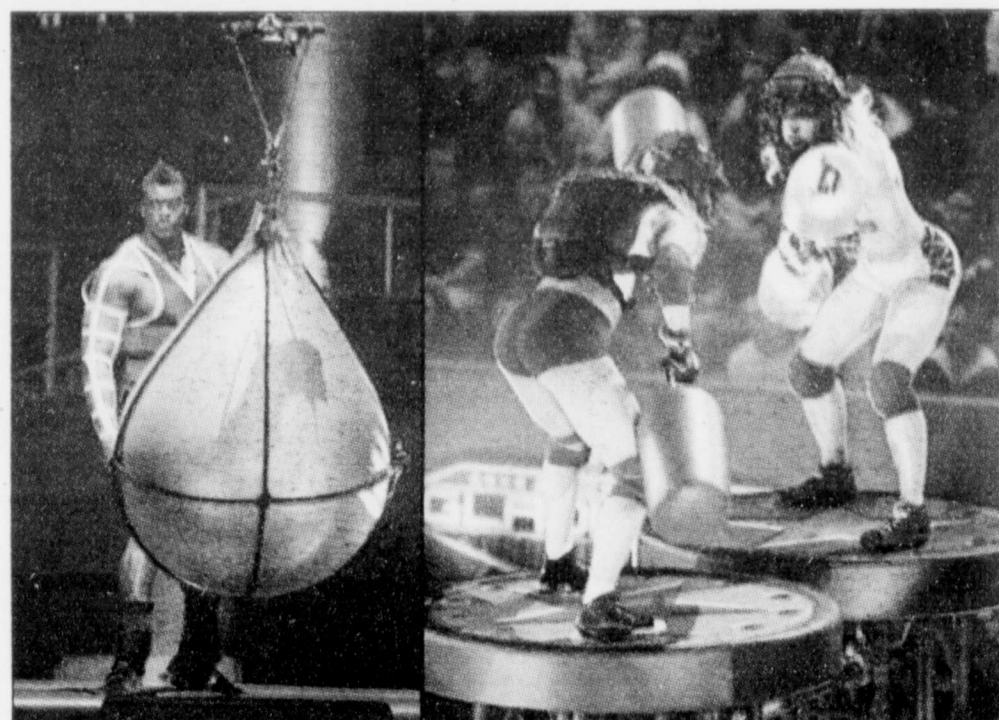
However, the aforementioned makeover does not guarantee high ratings for the show. A lot of the elements have stayed the same in the modern version of “American Gladiators,” which gives the show a “been there, done that” quality. Moreover, cramming six different stunts along with egotistical remarks from contestants and warriors into one hour is simply overwhelming. The hoopla of it all makes the contestants’ feat over the bestial gladia-

tors insignificant because too much happens too quickly. In other words, the show tests its audience’s patience, not to mention their intellect.

“American Gladiators” seems to be part of a media frenzy to glorify the fight, the individual struggle and the battlefield. Viewers can-

not help but feel that, if they were also equipped with shiny, skin-tight spandex and set in a futuristic land of gym mats and techno, they too could overcome any odds.

In the end, the show is not madness; it is simply, like it or not, “American Gladiators.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

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Mustang Daily

"Make sure to wear your warm jammies ...
it's going to rain until Friday morning."

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Monday, January 28, 2008

Editor in chief: Kristen Marschall
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8

keepingitcurrent
by taylor moore



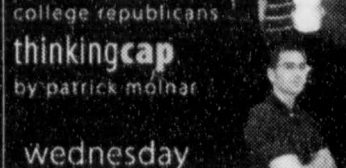
monday

checkyourpulse
by sarah bailey



tuesday

therightway
by members of the
college republicans
thinkingcap
by patrick molnar



wednesday

tittfortat
by lee and sean
collegiateculturesnob
by james koman



thursday

thegreenspot
by members of the empower
poly coalition



friday

Where is my check?

I work hard for my grades. I always have. If anything, my studying and efforts in the classroom have taught me the values of applying oneself and the success that can follow.

However, it seems I am a dying breed. A recent educational program has caught the attention of the media, students and myself. The Atlanta-based pilot program called "Learn by Earn" is paying students to study. For \$8 an hour, selected eighth-graders and eleventh-graders will spend two days a week in a special tutoring program. Those chosen for the program are students with high potential but low academic performance.

The invention of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, the "Learn by Earn" program hopes to create a positive learning environment and improve the studying habits of poorly performing students. Those in support of it argue that the United States is falling behind in education (true), that other countries such as China and India are producing students with higher skills in math and science in particular (true) and that school systems doing nothing about it are a disservice to the young population (true). But I don't think a check every two weeks is the right answer.

By paying students to learn, they are, in essence, being bribed for success. What kind of message does this send to those students not asked to participate in the program because they already are hard workers in their studies?

People constantly label our generation and the generations younger than us as egocentric youth. We have grown up thinking we are "special," receiving trophies for tournaments we didn't win, ribbons for 10th

Keeping it Current

by Taylor Moore



Does working hard to simply work hard even matter anymore or must everything come with a prize?

without the monetary benefits available to their peers. I am interested in seeing what happens in Atlanta. I do think "Learn by Earn" will be effective to a certain extent. Students being paid to study will study and in turn will receive higher grades, but their perceptions of education as well as their own power and intellect will be tested and, I fear, changed for the worse.

All I have to ask is, where is my check?

Taylor Moore is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily current events columnist.



STEVE KRISTOFF MUSTANG DAILY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cartoon pure propaganda at its worst

After seeing Mr. Glen's cartoon on page 13 of the Jan. 24 edition of the Mustang Daily, I was very disturbed. This cartoon is pure propaganda at its worst. The use of a "capitalist pig" in the drawing would have done Stalin proud, and the fact that the Mustang Daily actually printed this makes them no better than Pravda. This terrible attempt at humor only serves to show how ignorant the far left is.

Richard Vinson
Business sophomore

What the hell? This paper resembles several bad English 101 papers. Grow up, see the world and be a little more critical about this great culture that you seem to glorify above all. Sure, there are several positive things to say about America; there are, however, an equal amount of negative things that need to be addressed. As long as we have arrogant Republicans in office, do not call this the greatest country in the world. America has the potential and the resources to do great things. Let's critically analyze the several faults present in our culture, such as this feeling of undeniable superiority. The world isn't black and white. Let's work on moving forward and being a little more critical about our culture. Be progressive!

— Robert

Response to "America: The Superior Culture"



COMICS & GAMES

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

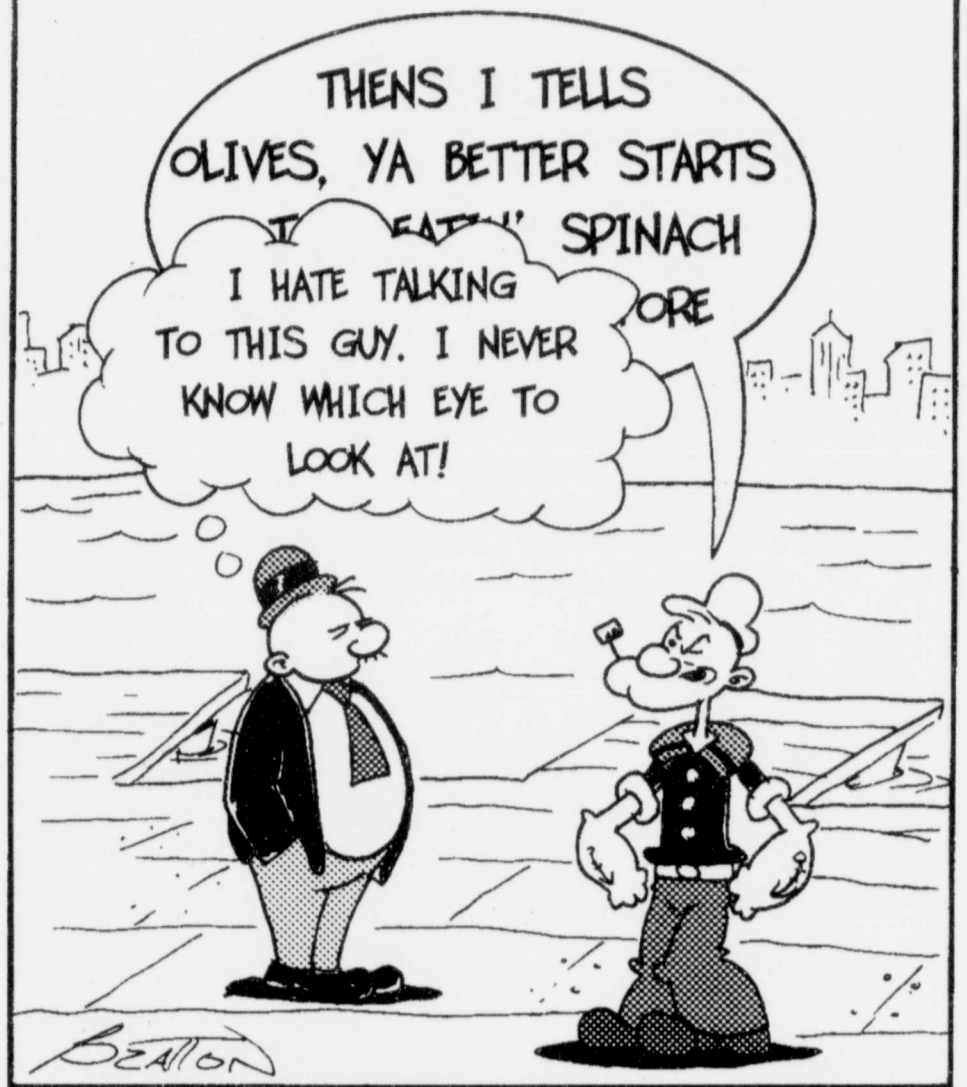


Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes



Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

www.popculturecomics.com © Doug Bratton 2008



The New York Times Crossword

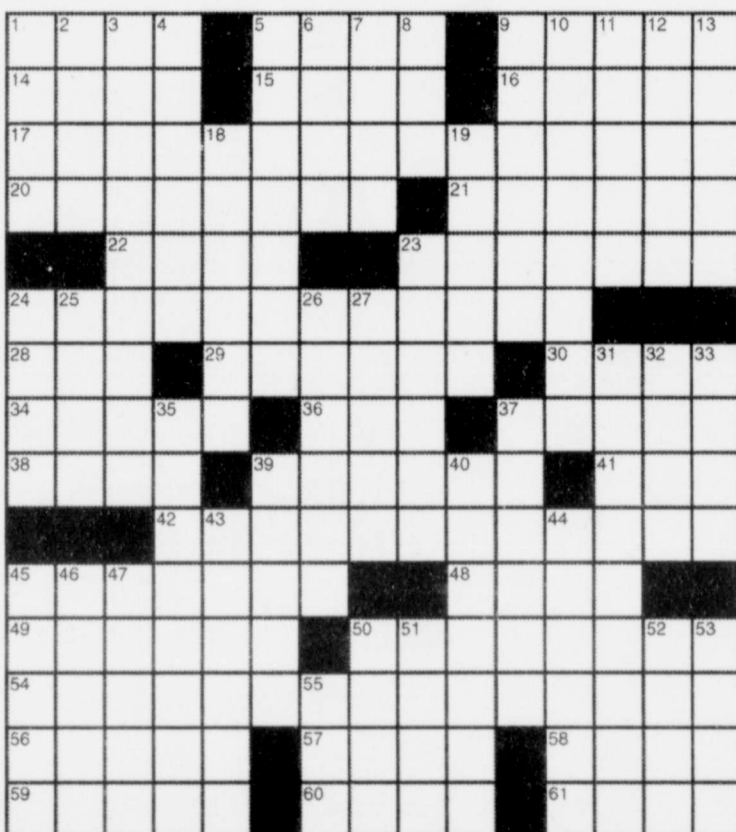
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1217

- Across**
- 1 ___ mater
 - 5 Letter-shaped structural piece
 - 9 Lesser-played half of a 45
 - 14 Elementary particle
 - 15 Vex
 - 16 Gucci alternative
 - 17 Upstate New York city and spa
 - 20 Remote areas
 - 21 Imp
 - 22 Head for
 - 23 The boondocks
 - 24 Honeymooners' destination
 - 28 Alternative to .com or .edu
 - 29 Fix, as brakes
 - 30 Jacob's twin
 - 34 Track events
 - 36 Asian New Year
 - 37 Leaves port
 - 38 Bygone U.S. gas brand
 - 39 Mother ___ 1979 Peace Nobel
 - 41 Napkin's place
 - 42 Former president of Harvard
 - 45 Kodak, Pentax and Nikon
 - 48 The "L" in S.&L.
 - 49 Is wild about
 - 50 Mythical island that sank into the sea
 - 54 Comic who played Robin Williams's son in "Mork & Mindy"
 - 56 Auto route from Me. to Fla.
 - 57 1930s migrant
 - 58 Smell ___ (be suspicious)
 - 59 Groups of spies
 - 60 Fails to keep pace
 - 61 Without: Fr.

Down

- 1 "I ___ sorry!"
- 2 Hawaiian cookout
- 3 Homeowners' burdens
- 4 Like clocks with hands
- 5 Shipment to a steel mill
- 6 Home of the Cowboys, familiarly
- 7 "Sad to say ..."
- 8 ___ judicata
- 9 Spread out ungracefully
- 10 Isle of Man's locale
- 11 Rumba or samba
- 12 Mystery writer's award
- 13 Swiss city on the Rhine, old-style
- 18 Dwellers along the Volga
- 19 Working stiff
- 23 French city where Jules Verne was born
- 24 Alaskan city where the Iditarod ends
- 25 Angers
- 26 Raises or lowers a hem, say



Puzzle by Richard Chisholm

- 27 Passionate
- 31 Time before talkies
- 32 Banned orchard spray
- 33 Letter carriers' grp.
- 35 Broad-minded
- 37 Pago Pago resident
- 39 Garbage
- 40 Besmirches
- 43 Mountain ridges
- 44 Powerful rays
- 45 Louisianan of French descent
- 46 Get ___ of one's own medicine
- 47 Pre-stereo recordings
- 50 Paul who sang "Put Your Head on My Shoulder"
- 51 Tiny branch
- 52 Tehran's home
- 53 Concordes, briefly
- 55 "You've got mail" co.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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		4	9	2			6	
			1		6	2		8
	4				9	1		3
8	3						2	7
7		5	4				8	
3		1	2		7			
	9			4	1	5		
	2				8	3		6

V. EASY

30

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Trading: Laying out all the cards on the table

"If you can't spot the sucker in the first half-hour at the table, then you are the sucker."

Now, I have probably watched "Rounders" one too many times because I take that quote to heart, even when it comes to fantasy basketball.

It always hurts when a first-round pick gets hurt or a fantasy sleeper doesn't pan out (*cough* Bargnani *cough*).

All of these problems can add up and make you look like the sucker in front of your friends, but there is no need to panic. It is only the midway point in the season and a lot can be done through trades.

Here are six simple rules to trading that will help you avoid looking like Tracy McGrady with yet another early first-round exit:

1) Find the person who is desperate to make a trade.

Don't bother wasting your time with the team that has won 75 percent of its games — there is little chance that the owner will break it apart. You will find the desperate

ones a few spots back from playoff contention.

2) Huge contracts and media attention mean absolutely nothing in fantasy basketball.

Just because Tony Parker is an NBA Finals MVP and is making \$10.5 million this year doesn't make him better than José Calderón when it comes purely to statistics. In fact, Calderón beats Parker in every statistical category except points (which shouldn't be your main concern from a point guard, anyway).

So next time you Google "Calderón" and it doesn't result with two million Web pages involving Eva Longoria, use that to your advantage.

3) Fantasy basketball is a multiple-category statistical game.

Remember that points, rebounds and assists are worth just as much as turnovers and shooting percentages. So try to find the person in your league that only looks at the

The FANTASY Jump BALL

COMMENTARY



Dmitry Bisk

ON FANTASY BASKETBALL

"appealing" categories like points per game and offer guys that are only good at those few stats, and can hurt in other places such as percentages and turnovers — guys like Carmelo Anthony, Ben Gordon,

Shaquille O'Neal and Zach Randolph.

4) Do not live in the past.

Find the person who drafted Vince Carter, Tracy McGrady or Jermaine O'Neal in the second round (or even the person that drafted Steve Francis and Shaquille O'Neal with one of their tenth-round picks) and offer them another fading superstar for an up-and-coming player that has already more than proved himself this year (for example, guys like Brandon Roy, Rudy Gay and Deron Williams).

5) Don't low-ball the other person.

This is one of the most important rules, and most of us know how it feels getting excited about a trade offer, only to open it up and see that you were offered Grant Hill

and Raymond Felton for Deron Williams and Paul Pierce.

If you propose trades like this it sends a message that you think the other person is an idiot, and the only response you will get is an even worse counter-offer.

6) Think ahead.

I agree that Tim Duncan and Steve Nash are some of the best, but when it comes down to playoff time and their real teams are locked up at the top of the Western Conference, they aren't nearly as valuable. The Spurs bench their players toward the end, and older guys with nagging injuries like Nash play fewer minutes so that they can be ready after the regular season.

Hopefully these rules can help you reach the top of your league, so that you can feel "so proud and good, strong enough to beat the world." Nevermind what I said before — there is no way "Rounders" can be overwatched.

Dmitry Bisk is an animal science senior and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.



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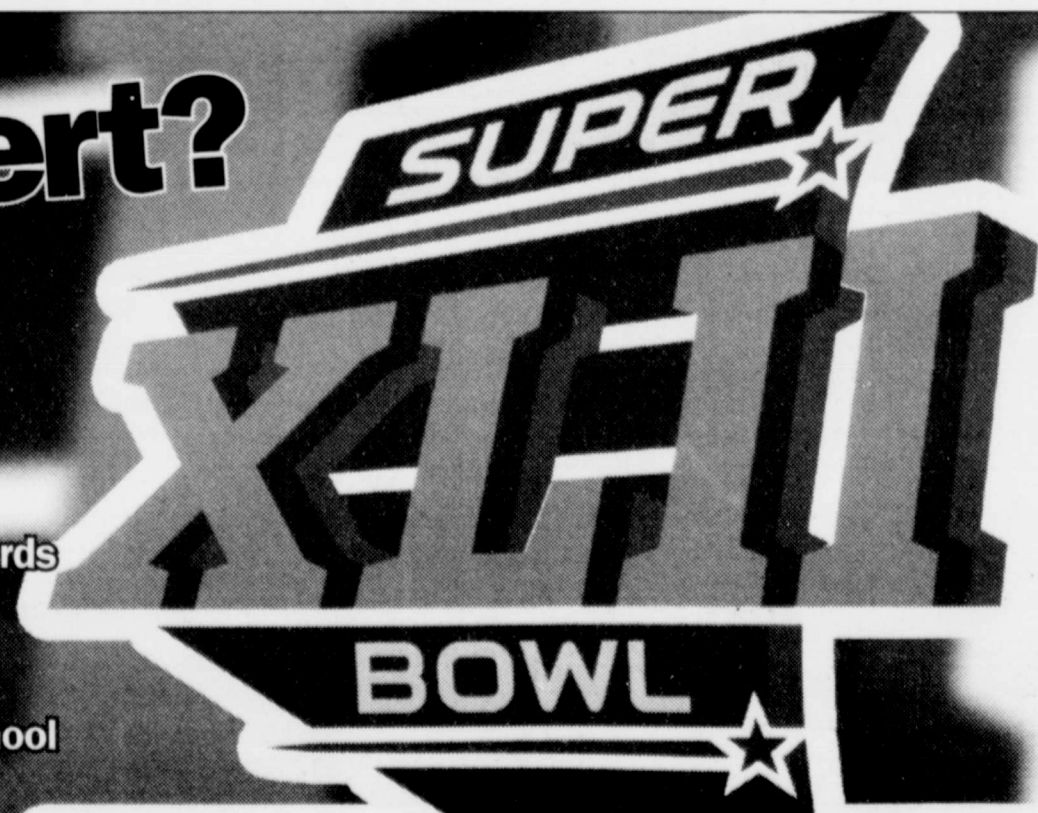
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women's swimming and diving | CAL POLY 157, PEPPERDINE 143

Benefield, Sorensen lead way over Waves

Cal Poly women win home finale despite being under the weather

Rachel Glas
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly women's swimming and diving team fought illness and cold weather Saturday to edge Pepperdine 157-143 at the Anderson Aquatic Center. The two schools split the matches, each winning eight of 16 events.

"We went in today to win races, not to kill ourselves. And we did just that," Cal Poly head coach Tom Milich said.

Because the Waves have no men's swimming and diving team, it was the only all-women meet of the year for the Mustangs.

After starting out by losing the medley relay, Cal Poly rebounded in the 1000-yard freestyle when freshman Gloria Benefield easily won with a time of 10 minutes, 29.2 seconds. Pepperdine's Loriann Mark came in second with a time of 10:41.53.

Benefield went on to win the 200 butterfly and place second in the 100 butterfly.

"If not for her being sick, it probably would have been a win," Milich said of Benefield's second-place finish.

Benefield was also part of Cal Poly's winning team in the 400 freestyle relay. The second swimmer to go, Benefield pulled her team from second place to first with a split of 25.65 seconds.

Team captain Stacey Sorensen and sophomore Erin

Musgrave, the third and fourth swimmers, respectively, kept the team ahead.

They won by more than five seconds.

Sorensen also had an eventful day individually.

After coming in third place in the 100 backstroke, she rebounded to win the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle. She also had the fastest split in the 400 freestyle

relay, with a time of 24.56 seconds.

Freshman Karin Schleicher was also a double-winner. She took top honors in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:56.27 and also won the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:11.31.

"The meet went pretty well," Sorensen said. "It was hard with lots of girls

being sick, but we pulled through."

Milich agreed about the team's performance in spite of the compromising circumstances.

"We did well," he said. "We had a lot of sick kids but we did what we needed to do."

Cal Poly's divers didn't fare as well.

As the clouds moved in and obscured the sun, they spent much of their time trying to stay warm.

Freshman Danielle Brennan placed highest for Cal Poly. In the one-meter competition she took home a third-place finish with a score of 198.75. She also placed third in the three-meter event with a score of 195.3.

The Mustangs next hit the water against Nevada and UC Santa Cruz at Nevada at noon Saturday.

We went in today to win races, not to kill ourselves. And we did just that.

—Tom Milich
Cal Poly head coach

Basketball

continued from page 12

As a team, Pacific leads the conference in field-goal percentage, shooting 49.2 percent, and is No. 2 in field-goal percentage defense, holding opponents to 42.3-percent shooting.

"(Pacific) is terrific," Bromley said. "We have to prepare for it being the most physical game we've played this year. ... We've always had a tough time scoring the ball there — in the past they've just locked us down. We've got to get them loosened up."

The Tigers also have hit the glass better than anyone else in the conference, out-rebounding opponents by 5.4 boards per game.

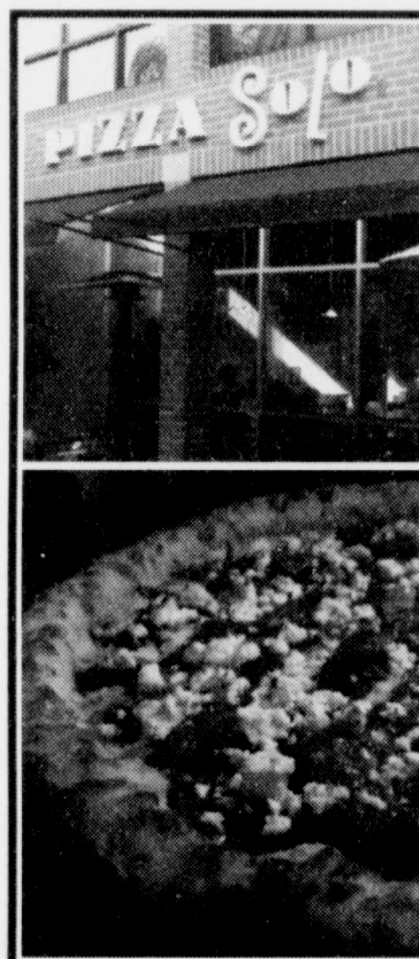
Meanwhile, the Mustangs (7-11, 2-4 Big West) are coming off of a 79-67 home win over UC Davis on Thursday.

Senior forward Dreshawn Vance led Cal Poly with a career-high 19 points, while three others added at least 10 points in the win.

One of those contributors, sophomore guard Lorenzo Keeler, started for just the third time this season.

Keeler is Cal Poly's second-leading scorer, behind junior guard Trae Clark, who posts team highs of 9.2 points and 3.6 assists per game.

Bromley said Keeler would probably start again, with the only change in the Mustangs' lineup possibly being the absence of freshman wing Shawn Lewis, who is a game-time decision due to a knee injury.



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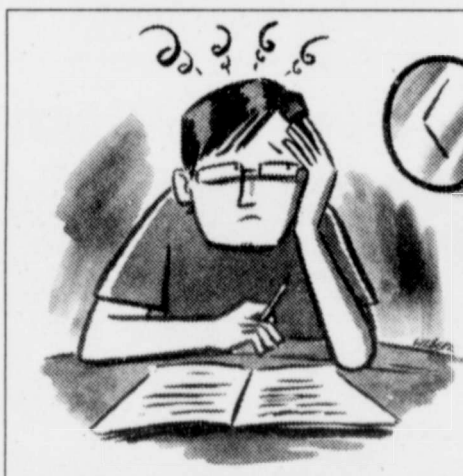
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Don't mess with Megan

Coral Snyder

MUSTANG DAILY

Since she was in third grade, Megan Harrison has played basketball.

"Basketball is my life and I don't know what I'm going to do without it when I graduate," she says.

Before moving to Dripping Springs, Texas, Harrison lived in Cambria with her family and played soccer because girls were not allowed to play on a basketball team until fifth grade.

She would join her first basketball team, which was coached by her father, after moving.

In Texas, Harrison says, she knew she loved basketball as soon as she began playing, and continued through high school until she was recruited to play for Cal Poly.

"I had a feeling when I came here that it just fit for me," Harrison says of her first experience at Cal Poly.

She felt right. Today, the junior forward leads the Mustangs in scoring and rebounding, with averages of 13.9 points and 6.6 rebounds per game.

While ranking third in the Big West Conference in scoring, and also in its top 10 in rebounding and free-throw percentage, Harrison helped Cal Poly (8-12, 5-2 Big West) to its best Big West start ever, and its best conference beginning in 28 years.

On Nov. 29, 2007, against San Diego State, she scored 34 points, the most ever in a single game by a Mustang since the program moved to Division I 15 years ago.

13.9

Megan Harrison's team-leading scoring average, third in the Big West Conference

1979-80

The last time the Mustangs started conference play with a 5-2 record, as a member of the Southern California Athletic Association

The 2006-07 All-Big West Second Team selection initially chose to attend Cal Poly because she loved its location, felt a connection with the coaches and team, and was interested in the school's equine program.

Harrison, an animal science major, plans to attend veterinary school when she has completed her education at Cal Poly.

At 6-foot-1, Harrison can play either forward position, as well as center.

Maturity and resiliency have been key to Harrison's success after several injuries, said Cal Poly head coach Faith Mimnaugh.

"She is one of those players who wants to be the very best that she can be," Mimnaugh says. "She works as hard as any of the competitors that I've ever coached."

Harrison trains with the team as well as on her own during the summer. She attributes her success in athletics to her competitive nature as an individual, and her success in college basketball to her coaches.

She feels they have helped her mentally to overcome her innate pursuit of perfection and have improved her skills through film study and persistent practice.

"I think I've learned from my coaches," Harrison says. "I've become smarter as a basketball player and my skill has definitely improved."



BEN ROZAK MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly forward Megan Harrison was a 2006-07 All-Big West Second Team selection as a sophomore.

Harrison attributes her family, and in particular her parents, as her strongest influence in basketball because of their support. They even moved from Texas to San Luis Obispo, she says, to be closer to her and to be able to watch her play.

"They're always here to support me," Harrison says.

Despite all her individual accomplishments, Harrison says her goal is to help the Mustangs become conference champions and make the

NCAA Tournament.

"Personally, I just want to keep being a leader and help them any way they need me to," Harrison explains.

Mimnaugh said she hopes the "humble" Harrison can achieve All-Big West First Team honors this year.

"Cal Poly is fortunate to have this student athlete," Mimnaugh says. "She is what every coach would want their daughter to be like, and player to be like."

wrestling | **CAL POLY 28, UC DAVIS 15**

Mustangs turn time off into win

Mendes stays unbeaten, Pami also wins

Brittney Clyde

MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly wrestling team returned to action against UC Davis at Mott Gym on Friday night after a 12-day break. Ultimately, the Mustangs overcame the Aggies with a 28-15 win in the Pac-10 dual.

They won seven of the 10 matches, which included two forfeits by UC Davis.

"It's always good to get a win," said Cal Poly head coach John Azevedo. "I think we met most of the expectations. There were a couple of them we thought we'd win that we didn't. It was good overall."

UC Davis was able to get an early win by fall at 125 pounds, but lost the subsequent seven matches.

The Aggies were also able to earn another fall at 197 and a decision at heavyweight.

UC Davis' style of wrestling is comparable to that of Boise State, which defeated the Mustangs (5-4, 4-2 Pac-10) on Jan. 13, 26-5.

"(UC) Davis is similar to Boise



BEN ROZAK MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly won seven of 10 matches Friday night at Mott Gym against the Aggies. It was the Mustangs' first competition in nearly two weeks.

(State); they like to get heavy on the head and get really physical," Azevedo said.

Though Azevedo said the Mustangs were "a little sluggish" during the match, he made it clear that it was due to how intensely they had been training during the period that no matches were scheduled.

"We trained really hard and I think their bodies are a little worn out, but we've been training for the future, not for this match," he said.

Cal Poly's Chase Pami bounced back from a loss in his last match to earn a 6-1 decision over UC Davis' Drew Maraglia at 157. Pami, ranked No. 13 in the nation, improved to 19-4 on the season.

"I'm satisfied with where I'm at, but I still have a little ways to go before the end of the year, but it's

going to come," Pami said. He added he wants to improve his consistency for the rest of the year.

At 141, Chad Mendes, the first Mustang to hold a No. 1 ranking in the nation since Scott Heaton and Rick Worel both did in 1980, defended his position against Nexi Delgado.

Mendes earned a 10-2 major decision to improve to 19-0 on the season. He's held down the top spot for two consecutive weeks in the InterMatWrestle.com poll.

The Mustangs will host Stanford in their penultimate Pac-10 match, at 7 p.m. Feb. 8.

19-0

The record of 141-pound Cal Poly wrestler Chad Mendes, ranked No. 1 in the country

men's basketball

Cal Poly takes on Pacific on ESPN2

Mustangs head to Stockton looking to build on second Big West win

Donovan Aird

MUSTANG DAILY

Regardless of whether the Cal Poly men's basketball team can make good on its bid to exercise some demons tonight, the whole country will get to see it.

As part of "Big Monday," ESPN2 will nationally televise the Mustangs' Big West Conference contest at Pacific at 8 p.m., when they'll try to win their second game in 20 tries in Stockton.

"I don't think we're as excited about the TV part of it as we are the challenge of playing them," said Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley.

While Bromley emphasized the on-court focus of the game, he did speak favorably of the value in the national broadcast.

"It's really good for the conference," he said, adding that the 6,150-capacity Alex G. Spanos Center is the ideal venue to represent the Big West. "We've had those discussions as coaches — if we're going to have (national) TV games, we've got to put our best facilities forward."

Cal Poly's only win at the Spanos Center, a "tough place to play," Bromley said, came Feb. 15, 2004, 67-64.

Pacific has since beaten the Mustangs four times in a row there.

The Tigers (14-5, 5-1 Big West), who have won six of seven, are coming off of a 71-58 win at UC Santa Barbara on Thursday. Chad Troyer led them with 27 points.

Troyer, though, is second on the team in scoring, behind junior guard Steffan Johnson, who averages team highs of 15.4 points, 4.7 assists and 1.6 steals per game.

Junior forward Anthony Brown chips in 11.4 points and 7.1 rebounds per outing for the Tigers, while shooting 56.4 percent from the floor.

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